City, Nagpur Times, Sadar Bazar, Seminary Hills, Sitabuldi, Coal Estate, Wadi, Nagpur Air Sorting (Saraf Chamber, Sadar) Nagpur, Nagpur Airport, Ambajhari Defence Project, Indian Bureau of Mines, Industrial Area Butibouri and India Post Business Centre, Zero Mile, Nagpur.

Jangla Telephone Exchange

1238. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2084 given in the Rajya Sabha on 17th December, 1998 and to state:

(a) by when the Jangla Telephone Exchange which is presently connected with Chirgon is likely to be connected with Rohru Exchange;

(b) what are the reasons for delay in its implementation; and

(c) whether Government are contemplating any action against those officials who are deliberately delaying the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) The installation work is in progress and the Jangla Telephone exchange is likely to be connected with Rohru Exchange by 31.3.2000 as committed.

Telephone on demand

1239. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whethre Government proposes to achieve the goal of 'telephone on demand' in the country;

(b) by when it would be possible to achieve the goal despite the revision of tariff by the TRAI;

(c) whether NCR Delhi get less number of connections as compared to last year; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (d) Government has planned to achieve the goal of "telephone on demand" by the end of the Ninth Five Year Plan with the participation of private operaters. However, the revision of tariff has a negative

impact on the revenue generation of the Department. This is likely to aggravate with the opening of domestic long distance network to private operators. Government has been making efforts to achieve higher annual targets than what has been envisaged in the Ninth Plan so that the overall achievement of Government during Ninth Plan is more than 185 lakh telephones which is the target set for Government in the Ninth Plan and likely to reach 220 lakh telephones.

NCR Region including Delhi provided 1.89 lakh telephone connections in 1998-99. During the current year NCR Region including Delhi so far provided more than 1.75 lakh telephone connections and is likely to provide more than 2 lakh lines.

Benefits to Bharti Telecom under Migration package

1240. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the report "IDFC gives Bharti Rs. 200 cr. to buy Telecom companies" published in 'Business Standard' on 1st February, 2000;

(b) whether it is a fact that Bharti is trying to buy sick companies which were sought to be bailed out by Government through the migration package in pursuance of 'public good' at the cost of 'public revenue' ;and

(c) if so, whether the same company Bharti was a beneficiary of the migration package as a metro cellular operator and to what extent deemed payment from Bharti was relinquished by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The licenses for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service are not transferable. However, the promoters/partners may transfer their equity subject to conditions of the license. While offering the Migration Package to cellular companies in respect of existing licenses, a condition has been imposed regarding lock-in period of five years on existing share-holdings. Since M/s. Skycell Communications (P) Limited, Licenses for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service in Chennai had completed five years lock-in period, M/s. Cromption Greaves were allowed to sell their equity (40.5%) in M/s. Skycell Communications (P) Limited to M/s. Bharti Televentures Limited. In case of M/s. JT Mobile,